

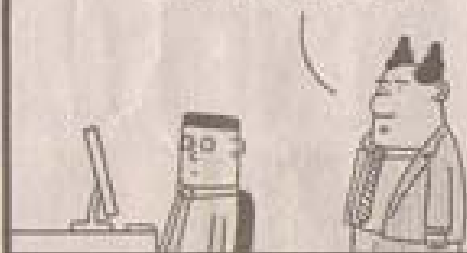
Community Disaster Planning for Animals



Sharon Adams, Executive Director of the Virginia Beach SPCA

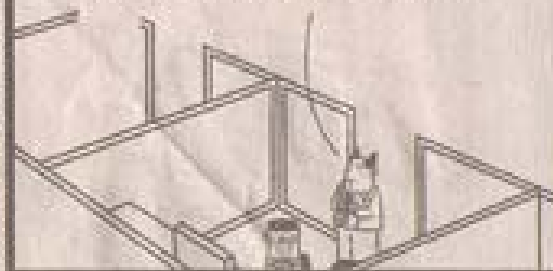
April 18, 2007

ASOK, I NEED YOU TO
CREATE A POWERPOINT
PRESENTATION THAT
WILL SAVE OUR DEPART-
MENT FROM BEING
ELIMINATED.



www.dilbert.com scottadams@aol.com

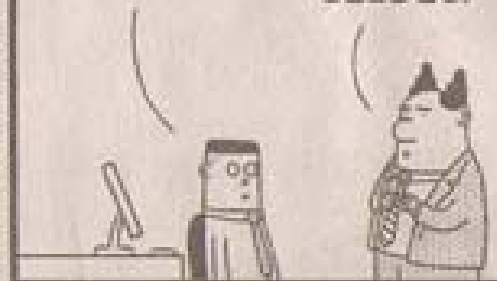
YOU MUST QUANTIFY
THE UNQUANTIFIABLE.
AND THAT CAN ONLY
BE DONE BY A PROCESS
THAT I CALL LYING.



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LYING
IS A
PROCESS?

IT CAN
BE, IF YOU
USE ENOUGH
SLIDES.



Why should we invest precious resources and time to save animals when we have people to save?



**61% of pet owners say they
would refuse to leave a disaster
area without their pets.**

(Zogby International Poll, September 2005)



It is a matter of public safety!



**FEMA recognized in a
report in 1983 that
evacuation plans that
did not take pets into
account were
fatally flawed!**

Old Message

- Leave your pet behind with 3 days of food and water
- Human evacuation shelters don't allow pets!



New Message

**If you evacuate,
take your pets
with you!**



If it is not safe for you,
it is NOT safe for your pets!



Where to Begin?

Step 1:

Develop An Animal Disaster Committee

- All geographical areas and towns within a county should be represented.
- No one should be denied access to the committee.
- The committee cannot be too large. It is better to have too many members than not enough.

Animal Disaster Committee

- **Emergency Management**
- **Fire/Rescue**
- **Law Enforcement**
- **Animal Services**
- **Veterinarians**
- **Animal Welfare Groups & Clubs**
- **Cooperative Extension Services (4-H Clubs, FFA, etc.)**
- **Cattlemen, horse ranchers, farmers, farriers**
- **Health Department, Waste Management**
- **Wildlife Groups**
- **Feed and Pet Supply Stores**
- **Commercial animal industries (breeders, kennels, stables)**
- **Other response agencies such as Red Cross, Salvation Army, etc.**
- **Utilities Departments**

Virginia Beach SPCA's Katrina Response Team



Subcommittees of the Animal Disaster Committee

- **Shelter /
Evacuation Site**
- **Volunteer
Coordination**
- **Equipment /
Supplies**
- **Animal Care**
- **Animal Rescue**
- **Identification**
- **Recovery Site**
- **Transportation**
- **Communications**
- **Public Relations /
Education**

“All committee members and responders should be educated in disaster preparedness for animals and should have a personal disaster plan for themselves and their facilities.”

Marion County, FL Emergency Management



Pet Friendly Shelter . . . Loaded and ready to go!

Step 2: Get To Know The Animals In Your County

Identify the following-

- Commercial animal operations, such as kennels, stables, dairies, poultry farms, pet breeders, etc.
- Veterinary clinics and mobile vets.
- Zoological parks, marine aquariums, wildlife rehabilitation centers, pet shops, humane societies, or any other agencies housing animals.

Take into account . . .

- **Companion Animals**
- **Agriculture Animals**
- **Exotic/Captive Wildlife**
- **Native Wildlife**



*Try to determine the number
of animals in your county -*

According to a 1992 study by the American Veterinary Association, the estimated number of companion pets per household is:

	<u>% of Households Owning Pets</u>	<u># of Pets per Household</u>
DOGS	36.5	1.52
CATS	30.9	1.95
BIRDS	5.7	2.16
HORSES	2	2.54

63% of all Virginia Households own at least ONE pet.

Dogs	$100,000 \times 43.5\% = 43,500 \times 1.7$	= 73,950
Cats	$100,000 \times 37.7\% = 37,700 \times 2.1$	= 79,170
Birds	$100,000 \times 6.4\% = 6,400 \times 2.16$	= 13,440
Horse	$100,000 \times 4.2\% = 4,200 \times 2.54$	= 10,668
Total Companion Animal Population		177,228

Identify citizens with special needs in the community -

These people need special consideration for sheltering, including accommodations for their pets.



Step 3:

Identify the Potential Disasters in Your Area

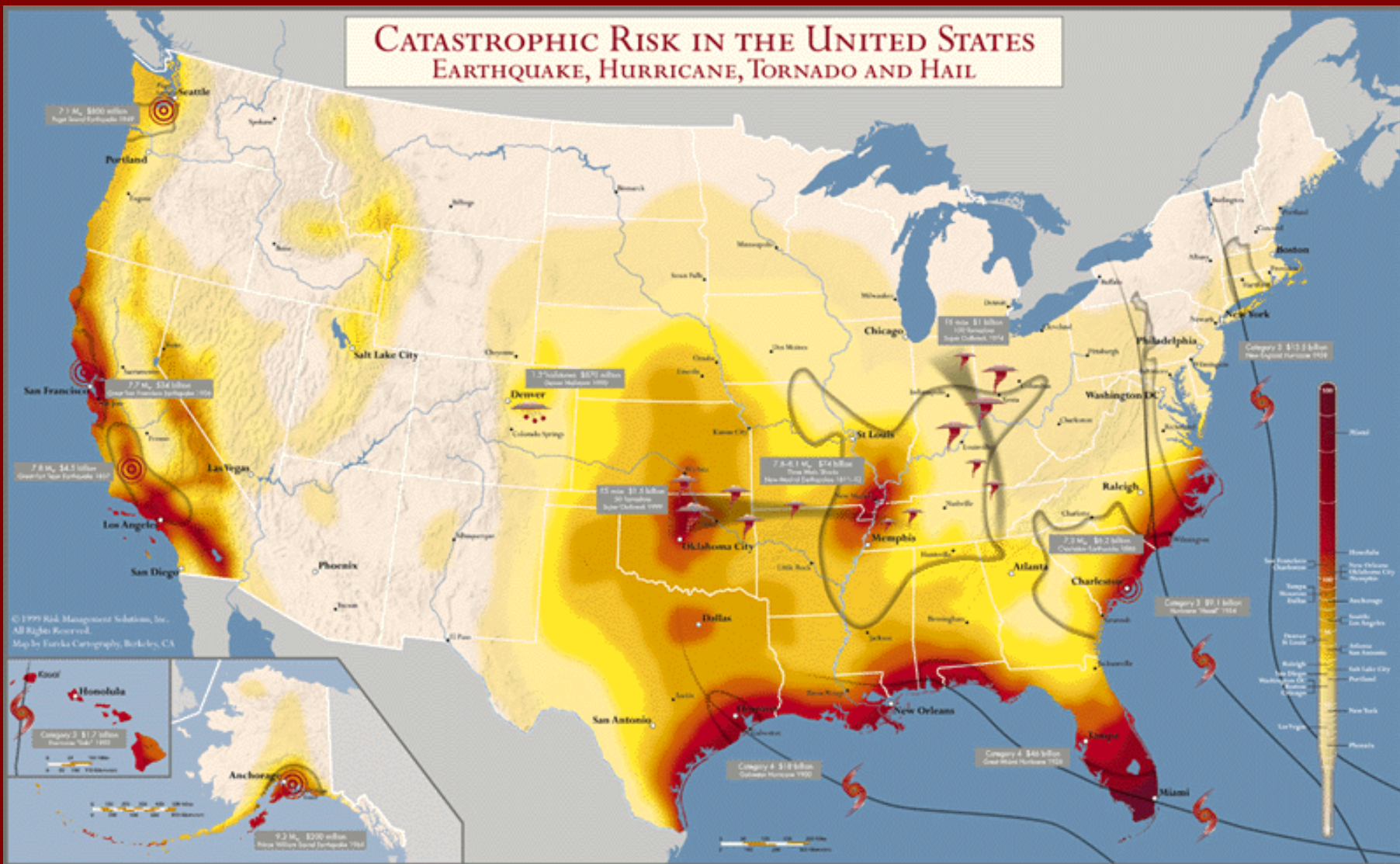


Evaluate your Community

Community Characteristics

- **Urban, rural, or mix?**
- **Demographics – economic, cultural?**
- **Natural features?**
- **Potential for natural disasters – hurricanes, earthquakes, tornadoes, floods?**
- **Potential for manmade disasters – highways, nuclear plants, industry, commercial animal operations?**

CATASTROPHIC RISK IN THE UNITED STATES EARTHQUAKE, HURRICANE, TORNADO AND HAIL



Step 4: Develop a Plan

The plan should include components for Planning and Preparation, Response (usually considered to be the 72 hours following the event), and Recovery.

Planning & Preparation

- Purchasing equipment, such as generators, vehicles for community use
- Making written agreements for use of equipment & supplies
- Training volunteers



Response



- **Activation of animal rescue teams**
- **Opening emergency shelters for people & animals**
- **Distribution of supplies & equipment**

Types of Emergency Sheltering

- **Emergency Evacuated Shelter**
- **Host Shelter**
- **Pet-friendly Shelter**
- **Temporary Animal Shelter**

Emergency Evacuated Shelter

- Relocated animal shelter – due to disaster
- Animal population – same as regular shelter
- Once set up – continues operation as regular animal shelter

Host Shelter

- Regular animal shelter hosts an evacuated shelter
- “Good Neighbor” program – make agreements with other area shelters for potential hosting

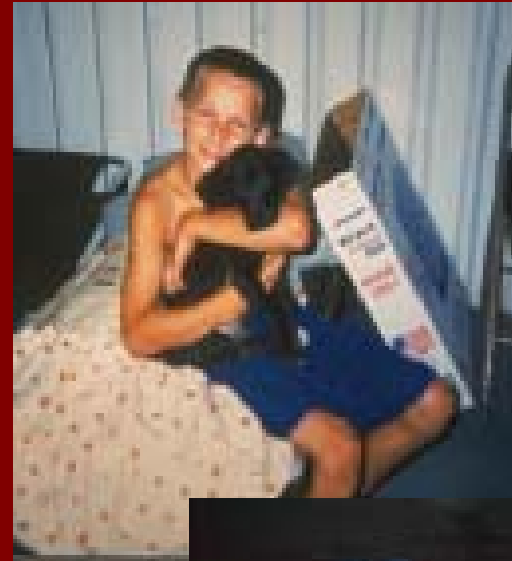
Pet Friendly Shelter



- **No unaccompanied pets. Owners care for their pets.**
- **Pets in one area, humans in another - in the same facility**
- **Pets & humans in the same space**

Benefits of keeping People & Pets close . . .

- Owners can care for own animals
- Less stressful on animal & owner
- Shelters can operate with minimum staff
- Minimum labor needs



Note

Pets are generally not allowed in most human evacuation shelters and in no *American Red Cross* shelters. This is because of concerns with health issues, allergic reactions to animals, people afraid of animals, etc. However, some human evacuation shelters do allow pets to be co-located in a nearby room or building.

Temporary Animal Shelter

- Owned animals belonging to evacuated humans
- Rescued or stray animals displaced as a result of the disaster
- Animals from an evacuated shelter
- Animals processed from “collectors” held awaiting court directive

Temporary Animal Shelter

Lamar Dixon, LA

Katrina 2005





Potential Shelter Locations

- Fairgrounds
- Restaurants
- Ball Fields
- Storefronts
- Horse Pastures
- Schools (gyms)
- Warehouses
- Parking Lots

Select location based on -

- Type of emergency
- Size
- Duration
- Distance from event
- Available facilities
- Accessible & easy to Find by public & volunteers



Recovery

- Set guidelines for community to return to “normal”
- Set short-term and long-term goals



Train Plan Prepare Practice



**Update your
Community Disaster Plan
at least once per year.**



Step 5: **Public Education**

- **Develop public information brochures that meet the needs of your county and distribute them widely. Utilize media.**
- **Hold public seminars on disaster preparedness for animals.**

The best disaster plan is Public Education!

“When individuals plan ahead, post-disaster care of both people and animals is substantially lessened.”



Where Are We Now?

Senate Bill 787

In the 2007 General Assembly, Senator Walter Stosch with the assistance of the Virginia Beach SPCA, the VA Veterinary Medical Association and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management, introduced and successfully enacted a bill which requires the VA Dept. of Emergency Management **to develop an emergency response plan to address the needs of animals in an emergency and to assist localities in developing their own emergency response plans.**

Step by step

- 1. Make your own pet emergency plan**
 - a. Prepare your pet kit**
 - b. Know where you and your pet(s) will go if you need to evacuate.**
- 2. Start or join a local committee to create your local emergency plan.**
- 3. Start or join an Animal in Disaster (AID) Team and practice your response.**

ELEMENTS OF A RESCUE OPERATION

- **Must have a trained and practiced team**
- **Develop solid animal identification/location process**
- **Identify what kind of emergency shelter you will use**
- **Field Procedures-First Aid**
- **Intake Procedures**
- **Damage Assessment**

PAPERWORK TRAIL

- **ANIMAL FACILITY SURVEY**
- **VOLUNTEER INTAKE FORM**
- **VOLUNTEER AGREEMENT/RELEASE**
- **ANIMAL RESCUE REQUEST**
- **EMERGENCY RELEASE**
- **REGISTRATION/AGREEMENT FOR PET FRIENDLY SHELTER**

Disaster Animal Planning Forms

- The following forms are templates for your use in developing and implementing a disaster plan for animals. Feel free to copy them and adapt them to the particular needs of your community.
- Many of the forms have a blank line in the upper right-hand corner for you to record a tracking or log number. It is important to fill out a separate form with a unique tracking number for each animal. If possible, have your printer use carbonless copy paper for your blank forms—and do so well ahead of the disaster. You will want multiple copies of most forms.
- **SPECIAL NOTE:** Several of the forms are legal in nature and should be reviewed by local attorneys to make sure they are in line with state and federal laws.

The **Registration and Agreement—Pet Friendly Public Evacuation Shelter** is for families entering a pet friendly public evacuation shelter. It is a record of information about the animal and human family members and constitutes a signed agreement between family members and shelter, stating that they will abide by the rules of the shelter.

The **Animal Rescue Request Form** is distributed to animal owners, law enforcement and military personnel, utility crews, and other workers in a disaster area. It gives rescue teams detailed information on the animal, including location, and allows for tracking the disposition of an animal.

The **Notice of Found Animal** is used for signage on the home of an animal who has been rescued or otherwise brought to an animal shelter. It informs the property owner that an animal was found at that location.

The **Animal Facility Survey** is used to gather information on facilities that house animals on a regular basis for the community animal disaster plan. It provides disaster responders with essential information on the location of the animals and on hazardous conditions that may hamper rescue efforts.

Volunteer Intake Form is similar to a job application. It is filled out by all volunteer applicants. It highlights the volunteer's skills, interests, willingness to participate, vaccination history, and availability.

Volunteer Agreement & Release of Liability is given to volunteers to sign prior to assisting in a disaster situation. By signing, the volunteer acknowledges the disaster situation may be hazardous and accepts full responsibility for participation in the activity. The volunteer accepts all risks.



You WITHOUT a Disaster Plan!

A dramatic sunset over the ocean. The sky is filled with large, dark clouds, with a bright orange and yellow glow from the setting sun on the left. In the middle ground, a person is swimming in the water with their arms raised. In the foreground, a brown dog is running through the shallow surf, creating a splash. The overall mood is heroic and inspiring.

He'd Do It For You. Be A Life Saver. Adopt From A Shelter.